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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13678 231347Z

43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 SAM-01 IO-14

/081 W
---------- 035983
R 231205Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6173
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13678

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TH, CB, US
SUBJECT: SENI PRAMOT CRITICIZES THAI ROLE IN U.S. ARMS ASSISTANCE TO GKR

1. DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER SENI PRAMOT IS QUOTED IN THE AUGUST 20 "PRACHANTHIPATAI" AS SAYING IT IS NOT PROPER FOR THAILAND TO HELP THE U.S. TRANSPORT WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA AND URGING THE ABOLITION OF ANY AGREEMENT THAT THE RTG MIGHT HAVE WITH THE USG ON THIS MATTER. SENI IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THAI ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING WEAPONS UNDERMINES THE RTG CLAIM TO NEUTRALITY IN THE KHMER CONFLICT AND THAT IT MIGHT CAUSE THE OTHER SIDE IN CAMBODIA TO SEEK REVENGE.

2. COMMENT: CRITICISM OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THAILAND IS NOT UNUSUAL, BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT A POLITICAL LEADER OF SENI'S STATURE HAS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST RTG COOPERATION WITH US ON THIS MATTER. AS THE CAMPAIGN FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS PROGRESSES, WE CAN EXPECT OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RTG TO COME UNDER INCREASING ATTACK FROM POLITICIANS.

3. THE RTG ITSELF IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY AMBIVALENT ABOUT ITS OWN SUPPORT FOR THE GKR AND PERMITTING US TO USE THAILAND
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 13678 231347Z

AS A LOGISTICAL BASE FOR SUPPORT TO CAMBODIA. WE ARE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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UTILIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE TO THE THAI THAT
SUPPORT FOR THE GKR IS TO THE THAI'S OWN ADVANTAGE.
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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